

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a purified polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

Claims 2-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (Previously presented) A vaccine composition including the protein or the polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A method of active immunization comprising including the administration of a the protein according to claim 1 to a mammal.

Claims 28-29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A fusion protein comprising the protein or the polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claims 31-32 (Cancelled)